

The Historie

Through all the kingdoms that acknowledge Christ,
Thrice hath this Hotspur Mars in swathing clothes,
This infant warrior, in his enterprises,
Discomfited great Douglas, ta'ne him once,
Enlarged him, and made a friend of him,
To fill the mouth of deepe defiance vp,
And shake the peace and safetie of our throne,
And what say you to this? Percy, Northumberland,
The Archbishops grace of York, Douglas, Mortimer,
Capitulate against vs, and are vp.
But, wherefore doe I tell these newes to thee?
Why, Harry, doe I tell thee of my foes,
Which art my neereft and dearest enemy?
Thou that art like enough, through vassall feare,
Base inclination, and the start of spleene,
To fight against me, vnder Percies pay,
To dog his heeles, and curtie at his frownes,
To shew, how much thou art degenerate.
Prin. Do not thinke so, you shall not find it so,
And God forgieue them, that so much haue swayd
Your Maiesties good thoughts away from me.
I will redeeme all this on Percies head,
And, in the closing of some glorious day,
Be bold to tell you that I am your sonne,
When I will weare a garment all of blood,
And stainie my fauors in a bloody maske,
Which washt away, shall scoure my shame with it.
And that shall be the day, when ere it lights,
That this same child of honour and renowne,
This gallant Hotspur, this all praised knight,
And your vnthought of Harry, chance to meet,
For euery honor, sitting on his helme,
Would they were multitudes, and on my head
My shames redoubled. For the time will come
That I shall make this Northren youth exchange
His glorious deeds, for my indignities.
Percy is but my factor, good my Lord,
To engrosse vp glorious deeds on my behalfe.

And

of Henry the fourth.

And I will call him to so strict account,
That he shall render euery glory vp,
Yea, even the sleightest worship of his time,
Or I will teare the reckoning from his heart.
This, in the name of God, I promise here,
The which, if he be pleas'd, I shall performe:
I doe beseech your Maiesty may salue
The long growne wounds of my intemperance:
If not, the end of life cancels all bands,
And I will die; a hundred thousand deaths,
Ere I breake the smallest parcel of this vow.
King. A hundred thousand rebels die in this,
Thou shalt haue charge, & soueraigne trust herein.
How now good Blunt? thy lookes are full of speed.
Enter Blunt.
Blunt. So hath the busines, that I come to speake of.
Lord Mortimer of Scotland hath sent word,
That Douglas and the English Rebels met,
The eleuenth of this moneth, at Shrewsbury,
A mighty, and a fearefull head they are,
(If promises be kept on euery hand,)
As euer offred foule play in a state.
King. The Earle of Westmerland set forth to day,
With him my sonne, Lord Iohn of Lancaster,
For this aduertisement is fise dayes old,
On Wednesday next, Harry, you shall set forward,
On Thursday, we our selues wil march, Our meeting
Is Bridgenorth, and Harry, you shall march
Through Gloucestershire, by which account,
Our busines valued some twelue daies hence,
Our generall forces, at Bridgenorth shall meet:
Our hands are full of busines, let's away,
Aduantag feeds him fat, while men delay.
Exeunt.
Enter Falstaffe and Bardol.
Fal. Bardol, am I not falne away vilely since this last action?
do I not bate? doe I not dwindle? Why, my skin hangs about
me, like an old Ladies loose gowne. I am withered like an old
apple Iohn, Well, ile repent, and that suddenly, while I am in
some

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